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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1905.

## All Class Legislation Is Vicious!

"As Mr. Gompers, president of the  
American Federation of Labor, has  
stated, my record in Congress shows I  
have always voted for and advocated  
legislation favorable to the workingman.  
I wish and invite an examination of my  
record in this respect."

So says Hon. Claude A. Swanson, member  
of Congress from the Fifth District  
of Virginia. It is one of the most re-  
markable statements we have seen from  
the pen of any public official. In Mr.  
Swanson prepared to say that he has al-  
ways voted for and advocated legislation  
favorable to the farmers?

Is Mr. Swanson prepared to say that  
he has always voted for and advocated  
legislation favorable to the bankers?

Is Mr. Swanson prepared to say that  
he has always voted for and advocated  
legislation favorable to the railroads?

Is Mr. Swanson prepared to say that  
he has always voted for and advocated  
legislation favorable to corporations in  
general?

Is Mr. Swanson prepared to say that  
he has always voted for and advocated  
legislation favorable to the merchants or  
to any and every class of citizens who  
have applied to Congress for legislation  
in their own behalf?

If not, why should he so positively and  
emphatically state that he has always  
and under all circumstances, and with-  
out qualification and without reference  
to the justice or expediency of the meas-  
ure, always voted for and advocated  
legislation favorable to the workingmen?  
It is a false doctrine and utterly vicious.  
Legislation should be in the interest of  
all the people. Democracy revolts at  
all forms of class legislation. When  
any class of citizens—bankers, railroad  
men, farmers, workmen or what not—  
make application to a legislative body  
for specific legislation in their own behalf,  
the question to be considered is whether  
or not such legislation is for the public  
good. If so, it should be enacted; if not,  
it is in the interest of one class to  
the injury or disadvantage or injustice  
of another class, it should be rejected as  
contrary to the very genius of our govern-  
ment and as subversive of Democratic  
principles, public moral and common jus-  
tice.

Mr. Swanson has made an able and effi-  
cient representative in Congress. He has  
many admirers and a large following  
throughout Virginia. He is a leader of  
public thought. He is an exemplar in  
politics and public service, and he owes  
it to himself, as well as to his constitu-  
ency and to the people of the whole State,  
to explain this broad and unqualified  
statement to which he has committed  
himself in the public print.

**Liquor Question and the Primary**  
The Times-Dispatch has labored most  
assiduously for the adoption of the pri-  
mary plan in Virginia, and of course we  
knew that the nomination for Governor  
was to be made this year by primary, and  
not by convention. The reference to a  
State convention in an article of yester-  
day was a mere inadvertence made  
through force of habit. But this does not  
alter the contention that the liquor ques-  
tion will be an issue in the forthcoming  
campaign, and that the candidates for  
the nomination will have to meet it and  
declare themselves one way or the other.  
The Mann law is popular. At the late con-  
vention in Lynchburg of the Virginia Anti-  
Saloon League it was shown that under  
the operation of the law retail liquor li-  
censes has been reduced from 1,500 in 1902  
to 1,100 in 1904, a total reduction of 750.  
The statement was also made that in  
seventy counties and three cities in Vir-  
ginia there is not a single licensed sal-  
oon, and that 74 of the 1,100 saloons are  
in the cities, 173 being in territory con-  
tiguous to the cities. Of the remaining  
191 all but thirty-one are in nineteen  
towns and summer resorts, the other  
thirty-one being scattered throughout the  
rural counties of the State.

In view of this situation, in view of  
the operation of the Mann law, is it reason-  
able to presume that the candidates for  
Governor will not be called upon to say  
whether or not they are in favor of a  
continuance of that law, and if any can-  
didate should fail to declare himself,  
would not his chances for the nomination  
be slim? and if all the candidates save  
one should decline to declare themselves,  
and the one candidate should say that  
he was in favor of continuing and upholding  
the Mann law, is it not fair to pre-  
sume that the candidate so declaring him-  
self would be successful in the primary?

There can be no doubt that this ques-  
tion will be an issue, and it is quite cer-  
tain that not only will the candidates for

the gubernatorial nomination be compelled  
to speak out, but certainly in the seventy  
counties and three cities which are now  
without licensed saloons the candidates  
for the General Assembly will also be  
compelled to make their views known to  
the voters.

For our part, we are not afraid for the  
Democratic party to meet this question  
frankly and bravely. In the last election  
the Democratic plurality in the vote for  
congressmen was 41,773. The Democratic  
plurality in the cities aggregated 11,104,  
leaving a net plurality in the rural dis-  
tricts and towns of 30,669. We have no  
doubt that the combined forces of the Re-  
publicans and the saloon men of the  
cities, grunting that such a combination  
should be made, could overcome this plu-  
rality. In spite of the fears of the News  
Leader, the power of the saloon in Vir-  
ginia is not great enough, even with the  
help of the Republicans, to beat the true  
and tried Democracy of this State. The  
saloon men of Richmond undertook to  
capture the government of the city, and  
the people generally did not learn of the  
movement until very late in the cam-  
paign, but as soon as they did discover it  
they rose up in their might and gave  
the saloon forces a signal defeat, and  
gave them also a lesson which they will  
not soon forget. Our esteemed neighbor,  
the News Leader, played a gallant part  
in that fight of the people against the  
saloons, and knows how easy was the vic-  
tory.

## About Jurors.

In his opinion in the McCue case, the  
Virginia Court of Appeals has made a  
timely and notable deliverance on the  
subject of the qualification of jurors. The  
court holds that the trend of recent de-  
cisions is in the direction of extending  
rather than of limiting the qualification  
of jurors by reason of any mere expres-  
sion of opinion in advance of the trial.  
"The State strains every nerve," says the  
court, "to disseminate knowledge. By  
the diffusion of education it hopes to  
create a higher citizenship and to find the  
means of repressing vice and crime; but  
if the courts take an extreme position on  
this subject and hold that every opinion  
shall work a disqualification for service  
as a juror, the administration of justice  
will be confided, not to the most intelli-  
gent, but to the most ignorant of our citi-  
zens."

The press of Virginia and indeed of the  
whole country, has for years been argu-  
ing against the absurd doctrine that no  
man was qualified to serve on a jury if  
he had formed or expressed an opinion  
concerning the guilt or innocence of a  
man to be tried for capital offense. In  
this day of many newspapers the par-  
ticulars of a murder are always publish-  
ed, and every intelligent man reads the  
news of the day. When he reads he must  
of necessity form some sort of an opin-  
ion whether or not the person accused is  
guilty, and to disqualify him for jury  
service on that ground would be to dis-  
qualify every newspaper reader. If that  
rule should be enforced it would be prac-  
tically impossible to obtain a jury in any  
community to try a man accused of murder.  
If a man should say on oath that  
his opinion was so firmly fixed that it  
could not be changed by the evidence, of  
course, he would not be a fit person to  
serve. But if he should state to the  
court that, while he had formed an opin-  
ion, he was able to give the accused a  
fair trial and to render a verdict in ac-  
cordance with the evidence, it would be  
shrewd nonsense to say that he was not a  
competent juror.

The jury system has been thoroughly  
tested and has proven itself in the main  
to be the best system that the world has  
ever devised, but its efficiency depends  
upon the intelligence and character of the  
men who constitute the jury and it should  
be the aim and endeavor of the court to  
procure for jury service the best and  
most intelligent men in the community.  
Any rule, therefore, which excludes in-  
telligent men and puts into the jury box  
ignorant men is a rule which tends to  
impair the efficiency of the jury sys-  
tem.

## Compulsory Education.

Elsewhere in to-day's paper we print  
a communication from Mr. Roosevelt Pace  
on the subject of compulsory education.  
It is a sensible, well considered paper,  
and we commend it to the careful atten-  
tion of the people of Virginia.

For a long time The Times-Dispatch  
was opposed to compulsory education.  
We have resented the idea of having an  
officer of the law entering the home of a  
citizen of Virginia and ordering his chil-  
dren to school, with or without the con-  
sent of the parents. This seemed to us  
an unwarranted invasion of personal  
rights.

But it must be remembered, and that is  
the phase of the question that has brought  
about a change of view on our own part,  
that the child has rights which are no  
less sacred than those of the parents.  
Parents have no right to maltreat their  
children, and there is no treatment much  
worse than to deprive a child of his  
chance for education.

Time and opportunity lost in childhood  
may spur a man on to superhuman efforts  
later in life, but the damage will never  
be repaired. No man has a right to re-  
fuse to use his own opportunities for  
self-development, and least of all has a  
parent the right to deny his child that  
chance for growth in power, opportunity  
and happiness which we call education.

The conservatism of Virginia will make  
so radical change as compulsory educa-  
tion a matter of slow growth, but the  
justice of Virginia parents and the needs  
of Virginia children will work even this  
revolution if an equal chance for educa-  
tion can be given in no other way to  
every child in the State.

## The Dying Jacob.

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)  
"The time drew nigh that Israel must  
die, and he called his son, Joseph, and  
said unto him, If I have found grace in  
thy sight, I pray thee, deal kindly and truly  
with me; bury me not in Egypt, but  
bury me in my father's grave, and thou shalt  
carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in  
thy burying place. And he said, I will do  
as thou hast said."—Gen. xlvii, 29, 30.

We have seen Jacob, a runaway, a  
stranger, an hireling and a prince having  
power with God. His descendants, his  
dreams, his prayers, his visions, are now  
closing, and the sunset is not without a  
radiant solemnity. Each dying man should  
be a teacher of the mystery and grace of  
Providence.

We shall now see Jacob, as we have  
never seen him before. Some men seem  
to live most when dying. We see more  
of them in that last dread hour than in  
a whole life time before. More sweet-  
ness, more feeling for things eternal and hea-  
venly, and more purged of self. How is  
this? Hypocrisy is not the explanation.  
Is there not a more excellent way, a truer,  
deeper, finer answer to the enigma of  
that sacred and tragic moment?

Who can tell what lights beam, then, in  
the soul; or what new courage is being  
breathed into the heart, timid through  
many a weary year? Who can tell what  
the dying see, or what they hear?

Seventeen years did Israel dwell in the  
land of Egypt, far beyond his own ex-  
pectations.  
Seventeen years he had nourished Jo-  
seph, and now by way of requital, Joseph  
nourished him. How Providence ordered  
Jacob's affairs, so that now when he was  
old, and least able to bear care or fatigue,  
he had least occasion for it, being well  
provided for by his son, and that without  
his own foresight. Thus God considers and  
cares for the frame of His people.

"The whole age of Israel was an hundred,  
forty, and seven years, and the time drew  
nigh that Israel must die." Israel, a prince  
with God, had had power over the angel and  
prevailed, yet he must now yield to death.

Who can fight the army of the years?  
Those grim soldiers never lose a war.  
They tire no loud cannon, they use no  
vulgar steel, yet they strike with irre-  
sistible, though invisible, hands. No  
noise, no line of battle, no leaders, yet  
the silent years bury the tumultuous  
strong. The strongest tower amongst us  
must be taken down, perhaps a step at  
a time, or with one rude shock it falls  
to the level ground, and man must die.

In his dying hour Israel had but one  
favor to ask. So it comes to us all. We  
who have spent a lifetime in petitions for  
assistance have at last but one more re-  
quest to make.

Dying words often convey whole vol-  
umes to those standing by and hark  
them with the unseen world of spirits.

"Head of the army," "Josephine," fell  
from the lips of the dying Napoleon.  
"Let us cross the river and rest under  
the shade of the trees," were the last  
words of Stonewall Jackson. "Dazzling!  
Radiant!" in tones of ecstasy, told to the  
watchers the sights which were unfolding  
to the vision of one of Virginia's most  
distinguished divines.

"Light, more light!" said Rousseau, ex-  
pressing some necessity which we must  
leave still as a mystery. "Bury me not  
I pray thee, in Egypt," said the aged  
Jacob to his son, Joseph, "but bury me  
in the burying place of my fathers."

What other home had that Old Testa-  
ment hero? That graveyard was a holy  
place to him. He must be buried in a  
given place, marked off and sacredly  
guarded. He had not yet learned that  
great truth that all places are consecrated  
ground, if so be that God did the  
grave and watch it. But with Joseph's  
aid the dying Jacob was satisfied.

Now the old man will tell his life story  
over. How will he begin, and where?  
There are some graves we dare not open.  
Jacob will begin where he himself truly  
began to be. "God Almighty appeared  
unto me at Lay, in the land of Canaan,  
and blessed me." Not a word about the  
old home or family or the old life, but  
where he threw off the old man and  
started with a brighter, larger self.

We began our true life when God be-  
gan His life within the soul. The dead  
past must bury his dead. God Himself  
has promised never to mention our sins  
to us. We must not drag back the men-  
tality to-day of murder, dissipation, blas-  
phemy and all manner of wickedness.  
We are now the sons of God, and in His  
forgiveness we must rest. Jacob had no  
property to divide. But there was some-  
thing better than property he had to  
bequeath. What a will was his! He was  
his own distributor, already enriching his  
sons with an inheritance far better than  
measurable lands or piled up coffers.

What have you to leave to your chil-  
dren and to your friends? You can leave  
them an inheritance incorruptible, unde-  
filed, and that fadeeth not away—bright  
memories of love and sacred sympathy,  
prayers that filled the new life with hope,  
forgiveness that brought heaven to earth  
and made pardoned souls free as if they  
had seen their Father in heaven; a great  
will and eternal substance—an imperish-  
able legacy.

Now let Israel die! Bury the old man  
where he asked to be. Whenever such a  
man is buried, now that God has wrought  
the good in him and extracted the evil,  
sweet flowers must grow—Eden must  
begin.

At no distant day the man who reads  
the newspapers and is posted as to what  
is going on in the country, will be sought  
out as the only sort of man competent  
to sit upon a jury. The strange thing is,  
why it is not so now.—Haleigh Times.

It is getting so in Virginia. Vide the  
decision of the Supreme Court of Ap-  
peals in the McCue case.

After looking over the field, so to speak,  
the Atlanta Constitution predicts that  
there will be more diversified farming in  
the South this year than ever before in  
the history of Southern agriculture, and  
that diversification will win the cotton  
fight.

Out in Indiana the other day, a mule  
kicked a man to death because he tried  
to make the beast drink water. It is need-  
less to add that the mule had been re-  
cently imported from Kentucky.

Nineteen girls have been expelled from  
retreat. If the cigarettes were made of  
a Connecticut college for smoking clari-  
fication, they ought to have been  
mugged after expulsion.

A wireless burglar alarm is the latest  
alleged invention. If it can be worked by  
the man who has been compelled to put  
his hands in the air, it will be a suc-  
cess.

Prophet Dowle blessed Richmond all  
right, but even with the help of that  
glorious winter climate of Florida, he  
could not keep the dyspepsia out of his  
own way.

The police of Elgin, Ill., have a tough  
job on their hands, and one doomed to  
failure. They have been ordered to sup-  
press flirting in that town.

the reason we  
advertise

**"old Joe"**  
whiskey

It's worth  
advertising  
there's merit  
behind it

buy it and see  
all good  
dealers sell it

bluthenthal & bickart  
**"b. & b."**  
atlanta

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job on their hands, and one doomed to  
failure. They have been ordered to sup-  
press flirting in that town.

According to the latest government sta-  
tistics, Uncle Samuel is paying out only  
fourteen cents a head, per day, to keep  
his soldiers well fed.

The cotton acreage has been materially  
cut down, on paper. The business, as it  
will be transacted in the field, is yet to  
be heard from.

Arizona and New Mexico are still hold-  
ing out against fusion.

## THE CONFEDERATES RIGHT. DECLARES A UNION SOLDIER

The Confederate editor of The Times-  
Dispatch is in receipt of a letter from a  
well-known Massachusetts man, who  
writes:

"I am very much interested in the Con-  
federate side of the war, and although a  
Yankee, who was on the Federal side, I  
now believe that the South was right  
and made a heroic defense against over-  
whelming odds. I would be pleased  
if General Hoke or some other gentleman  
who was connected with the operations  
around Little Washington, N. C., would  
write an article and give the reason  
why the Confederates did not take ad-  
vantage of the situation, as they could  
have captured General Foster and his  
forces without doubt. I would be pleased  
to take fifty copies of your paper con-  
taining such an article."

**An Editor's Protest.**  
Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—In your issue of January 25th the  
leading editorial is headed: "Go It, Dono-  
hoe! Go It, Lawson!" and has reference  
to Lawson and his critics in the discus-  
sion of "Frenzied Finance."

As the controversy is so hotly controverted  
I have become involved in the discussion,  
although they should know that I never  
"claw the atmosphere" in that fantastic  
style.

The question of "Frenzied Finance,"  
as it concerns a newspaper man, has no  
connection whatever with the term as  
understood in Wall Street. The fraterni-  
ty will vote "aye" unanimously on that  
proposition.

Yours very truly,  
S. R. DONOHUE,  
Editor Fairfax Herald.

## Compulsory Education.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:  
Sir—Believing that the line has come  
where the public school system should  
be made better use of, I give it as my  
best judgment, after careful study and  
observation of the situation, that the law  
should be so amended as to require  
parents and guardians to send their chil-  
dren and wards to school under proper  
restrictions.

The objections to such a proposition are:  
1st. The curtailment of personal lib-  
erty.

2d. That such a law would educate  
the negro children and thus intensify the  
race issue.

3d. That the want of books, and the in-  
ability of parents and guardians to sup-  
ply them to large families would work a  
hardship in many cases.

4th. That the distances from school  
would render such laws ineffectual in  
sparsely settled localities.

5th. That it is unusual, and foreign  
to our previous ideas and experience.

The answer to the first objection is  
found in the beneficent public policy  
and the necessity of surrendering some  
individual rights for the general good.  
Of course, there is no expectation of  
requiring every child to be sent to the  
public schools, but that children between  
certain ages shall be sent to some school,  
subject, of course, to proper exceptions  
and restrictions.

The answer to the second objection is  
found in the fact that the negro children  
are sent to school in many cases and the  
white children are kept at home. Of this  
fact I can testify of my own knowledge.  
The fact that the law should require chil-  
dren to be sent to school would not af-  
fect any apportionment of the school  
funds. That might be made, if desirable,  
not clearly indicated, a separate school  
only avail while the school were in ses-  
sion.

The answer to the third objection is  
that this is a matter of detail and can  
be met in different ways. The most ra-  
cial way is to furnish books to the chil-  
dren where they cannot be otherwise ob-  
tained. And yet there is no vital re-  
quired.

The answer to the fourth objection is  
that the distances from school would  
render such laws ineffectual in  
sparsely settled localities.

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to our previous ideas and experience.

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found in the beneficent public policy  
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subject, of course, to proper exceptions  
and restrictions.

son why the State, county or district  
should not furnish books, as well as  
houses, fires, equipment and teachers.  
The answer to the fourth objection is  
a matter of detail. If it is too far  
for a parent to send his boy to work,  
five miles was not too far in a case I  
have known, where parents were wine  
and uneducated.

The answer to the fifth objection is per-  
haps the most difficult to give. Our peo-  
ple are a conservative people, and the  
fact that a certain thing has not been  
done is always a most potent argument  
against its ever being done.

This first, will point to those patriots  
who have thought of personal restriction  
upon the right of man to do what  
he will with his own is most annoying.

The second will appeal to those who  
fear negro domination and to whom the  
thought of a negro being able to read  
and write is most distressing. Many of  
these, comparing the ill manners of the  
younger generation, who can read and  
write, with the good manners of the  
old negroes, who could not read and  
write, are apt to say it is a little educa-  
tion they have rather than to the want  
of proper training.

The third objection will appeal to cer-  
tain taxpayers.  
The fourth will be raised by the pa-  
rents who do not wish to send their  
children to school for one cause or an-  
other.

And the fifth objection will appeal to  
many of the wise and good of the State,  
who are contented to let well enough alone.  
Of course, those parents who now send  
their children to school will barely find  
fault with such a law, unless upon some  
of the grounds already mentioned. Nor  
may such a change appear so necessary  
to those who live in town where the need  
of the school is known and appreciated,  
and the habit of going to school is gen-  
erally acquired.

The advantages of this proposition,  
which I think far outweigh the objections  
to it are:

1st. The benefit to the children who are  
to constitute the State in the future.

2d. The improvement of the present  
schools.

3d. The advancement of education.

4th. The good of the State at present.

5th. Its future welfare.

It may surprise you, but I have within  
the last few months had a worthy man  
to tell me, when I urged him to send  
his children to school, that other times I  
believe he would have done so.

He was referred to a successful coun-  
tryman, who could not write his name,  
as evidence of the uselessness of educa-  
tion.

The first consideration in every family  
must be the welfare of the child. Upon  
him depends the perpetuity of the race.  
The State must in the future look to him  
as much as the father and mother must  
for its support and maintenance. As he  
is left to grow up in ignorance, the fam-  
ily, neighborhood and State will suffer.

What is the use of the State supplying  
schools, if the selfishness, ignorance, pre-  
judice or even the poverty of the parent  
is to prevent their usefulness? As he  
grows, he wants his child to work  
when he ought to be at school. It is as  
was once said by a great Virginian, "grin-  
ding the seed corn."

The parent never had any education  
himself, and does not know how to  
educate his child. When he ought to be at  
school, the child grows up in idleness and  
the State loses a thrifty if not a worthy  
citizen.

The parent does not like the school  
superintendent, or the school trustee or the  
school teacher, and the child is kept from  
school. The State loses a worthy citizen  
of broad view, and often gains a narrow-  
minded, selfish, brutish citizen, who goes  
through life seeking and abusing every-  
thing and everybody.

The second advantage that would arise  
from a well considered law compelling the  
sending of children to school under cer-  
tain restrictions would be the exor-  
cism of the parents of the State. This, I be-  
lieve, is self-evident. It is much easier  
to get and keep a good teacher for a  
school that is well attended and where  
the authority of the teacher can be exer-  
cised, without infringing upon the self-  
will of the parents of the State, than it is  
to have a teacher come to a school whose  
existence is at the whim or caprice of the  
patrons of such schools. If such a law  
were passed, the community would have  
a greater interest in the schools and  
would demand that they be made as good  
as possible.

The third advantage of such a law  
would be the advancement to education  
in the State. This, too, appears self-  
evident. As soon as the children of the  
State get in the habit of going to school  
the light of learning will shine abroad and  
the love of learning will take possession  
of the community, and every high school,  
academy, college and university will find  
its ranks increased, and the shops, forges,  
manufactories and farms will be worked  
by boys and men of intelligence and  
thrift, and peace and happiness will abide  
in the homes of the people. That such  
a condition will come to the good of the  
State both present and future seems a  
corollary from what has been said.

The experience of the other States where  
such laws have prevailed should give great  
weight to this too, apparent self-  
evident fact. There is abundant proof  
that a State composed of educated peo-  
ple is richer and more productive in ma-  
terial things than are those where the ma-  
jority are uneducated. And how much  
richer must such a State be in mental  
and moral respects?

Much is said and written about im-  
proving the schools of the State, but I  
dare say that such improvement is a  
theory until some plan can be hit upon  
which will render possible any such im-  
provement. A school without pupils is  
as hopeless as a school without a teacher.  
The bright-eyed boys and girls of the  
State whom one sees as he travels  
through the country, growing up in the  
homes of the people, are the result of  
which they know nothing, and for  
which their parents care nothing, call  
upon all good men to do what they can to  
save them, and thus save the State which  
we all love as dearly as our lives.

Respectfully,  
ROSWELL PAGE,  
Oakland, Hanover Co., Va.

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